

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF CY UNHCR

SUBJECT: CYPRUS DISASTER RELIEF

REF: GENEVA 5630

FURTHER TO REFTEL QUOTED BELOW IS TEXT OF PRESS STATEMENT RELEASED
BY UNHCR SEPTEMBER 9 ANNOUNCING A 22 MILLION DOL PROGRAM FOR
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CYPRUS:

QUOTE: EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION IS THE MAIN ITEM IN THE \$22
MILLION PROGRAMME OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CYPRUS BEING
CO-ORDINATED BY THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, ACCORDING
TO THE FIRST OFFICIAL BREAKDOWN MADE PUBLIC TODAY FOLLOWING THE APPEAL

OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON SEPTEMBER 6, THE \$8.9 MILLION EMERGENCY
ACCOMMODATION ITEM INCLUDES PRINCIPALLY TENTS, BEDS AND BLANKETS
WHILE \$8.1 MILLION IS EARMARKED FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF FOOD INCLUDING
CEREALS, EDIBLE OIL, CONDENSED MILK, SUGAR, CANNED MEAT, CANNED
FISH AND PULSES.

THE OTHER MAJOR COMPONENTS IN THE PLAN ARE \$2.5 MILLION FOR
TRANSPORTATION INCLUDING OVERSEAS AIR AND SEA FREIGHT AND IN-
LAND TRANSPORTATION AND \$850,000 FOR DOMESTIC AND COMMUNITY
EQUIPMENT SUCH AS STOVES, DOMESTIC UTENSILS, MOBILE KITCHENS

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AND RELATED EQUIPMENT. AN AMOUNT OF \$1.65 MILLION IS FORE-

SEEN AS A CONTINGENCY RESERVE AND PROGRAMME.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN, HAS POINTED OUT THAT ON THE BASIS OF SOME 226,000 PERSONS, EITHER DISPLACED OR ISOLATED, WHO ARE ESTIMATED TO BE IN NEED OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE ON THE ISLAND, THE REQUIRED \$22 MILLION REPRESENTS AN AID AMOUNTING TO ONLY 80 US CENTS PER PERSON PER DAY UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR.

THE UN PLAN IS DESIGNED TO SUPPLEMENT HUMANITARIAN WORK ALREADY BEING DONE BOTH BILATERALLY AND MULTILATERALLY, MAINLY UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS. THE ICRC'S ROLE IN PROVIDING RELIEF WILL PHASE OUT IN DUE COURSE AS THE UN HUMANITARIAN ACTION TAKES OVER. DETAILS OF THE UN PROGRAMME ARE BEING DESPATCHED TO GOVERNMENTS TODAY AS A FOLLOW-UP ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S APPEAL.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS STATED THAT IN ORDER TO ALLOW FLEXIBILITY IN PLANNING, CASH CONTRIBUTION ARE PREFERRED. SOURCES OF PRINCIPAL SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN FOUND FOR THE MOST URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS AND SHIPMENT BY AIR TRANSPORT WILL BEGIN AS SOONS AS FUNDS ARE PLEDGED.

UNHCR HAS ALREADY SET UP AN OFFICE IN CYPRUS. A MECHANISM FOR CO-ORDINATION HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN GENEVA AND NICOSIA IN ORDER TO AVOD DUPLICATION AND MAXIMIZE THE EFFORT OF MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS. MEETINGS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UN BODIES INVOLVED, INCLUDING UNFICYP, UNICEF, WFP AND WHO ARE BEING HELD REGULARLY TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE CO-OPERATION WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM. SIMILAR CO-ORDINATION IS BEING ARRANGED WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. UNQUOTE.

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